

HANDOUTS

- October 10, 2018 meeting minutes

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:51 pm by Assistant County Manager Derrick Ramos

Welcome

Derrick Ramos welcomed CJAG members.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of October Minutes.

Discussion: October 2018 CJAG meeting minutes presented. No corrections identified. October minutes approved as presented unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: 2018 Public Perception Study Updates

Discussion: Joyce Kurpiers with Percept Research presented the CJS 2018 Public Perception Study results. Joyce was the lead project manager for the 2018 study. Joyce pointed out that the 2018 study was the third in a series of studies. The first perception study was conducted in 2012 while the second study was done in 2015. The previous studies were performed by another vendor. Data from the 2018 study were compared to the 2015 data to analyze trends and comparisons. The 2018 study was fielded to Mecklenburg County residents in the Fall of 2018 during October and early November over a three-week period and was provided in both English and Spanish. The total sample size was 405 which was comparable to the 2015 sample size. In general, respondents indicated that they perceived an increase in the incidents of crime in Mecklenburg County over the last 3 years. Several of the survey respondents indicated that there is disparity in perception among different ethnic groups. The responses also indicate a widening gap in perception differences.

Percept Research tried to mirror the demographics of Mecklenburg County as closely as possible but saw a greater percentage of white non-Hispanics and female.

The 2018 study showed different CJS services performing at similar ratings to the 2015 results according to the public. Police and law enforcement had a higher rating compared to other groups tested.

The study looked at the cost of holding someone in jail as opposed to community-based programs or non-jail sanctions.

Survey respondents were asked about their own experiences with the criminal justice system as well.

The survey also explored respondent's experiences with fair and equitable treatment among different racial and ethnic groups in the Mecklenburg County criminal justice system. Results varied depending on the racial and ethnic group surveyed.

Judge Regan Miller asked if any the survey data was broken down by educational level of the respondents. Joyce Kurpiers responded that educational level was not part of the survey however household income was part of the survey.

Assistant Public Defender Mike Kabakoff asked how the survey was distributed to the citizens of Mecklenburg County. Joyce Kurpiers explained that a panel provider was contracted and given a set of criteria including geographic data and demographics. Then a sample provider reached out to citizens by email.

Agenda Item 3: CJAG 2019 Strategic Planning Update

Discussion: Derrick Ramos explained that the CJAG Executive Team met on November 14, 2018 to discuss the top proposed goals for CJAG in 2019. Key point persons, to ensure follow up on these goals, were also identified. Ramos proposed that the CJAG Executive Team will meet once again to preview a more fleshed out strategic plan and present their proposals to the

Full CJAG committee. Feedback and input received from the Full CJAG Committee will be taken into account and used to finalize strategic plan proposals.

The first goal is to map out Diversion in the jurisdiction. This will include a comprehensive program map of all the diversion programs that exist and the program service eligibility criteria and how to access services. The finished document will serve as a source that judges and court officials can refer to for guidance. A service gap analysis will be part of this process as well. Education and training will also be addressed. District Attorney Spencer Merriweather has volunteered to lead this initiative.

The second goal is to address racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. This goal aligns with the Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED) strategy work being done within the Safety + Justice Challenge. Huntersville Police Chief Cleveland Spruill will lead this initiative.

The third goal is to improve the effectiveness of CJAG. A Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats (SCOT) survey was sent out to CJAG members. The feedback was collected and will be used to help make CJAG a more effective and cohesive group in 2019. Assistant County Manager Derrick Ramos will lead this group and CJS Director Sonya Harper will provide support.

Agenda Item 4: RED Strategy Decision Mapping

Discussion: Huntersville Police Chief Cleveland Spruill offered a high-level overview of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Decision Mapping. RED is a Strategy 7 within the Safety + Justice Challenge. Chief Spruill explained that the Burns Institute would be offering technical support in the development of the decision point map.

CJS Research and Planning Manager Danté Bryant added that his team would be working in parallel with the Burns Institute to formalize the process once the Decision Mapping is finalized. The goal is to replicate and track the process internally within CJS. Katy Fitzgerald will lead the process within the CJS Research and Planning team.

Agenda Item 5: Open Discussion

Discussion: Chief Magistrate Khalif Rhodes asked what the next steps would be with the 2018 Public Perception Study. CJS Director Sonya Harper explained that the next phase of the study would be the qualitative study which would be taking place in December 2018. She stated that CJAG would be welcome to take the collected data and follow up further.

District Attorney Spencer Merriweather stated his opinion concerning public perception studies. He stated "It usually requires one of two options: Change policies or Change perceptions. It usually involves both but not the second one."

Public Defender Kevin Tully expressed his view that the ability to push the results of this study out to the public is important.

Chief District Judge Regan Miller brought up the issue of attendance for CJAG meetings to the group. He proposed investigating the reasons for some CJAG members not attending regularly. Assistant County Manager Derrick Ramos agreed and stated that there are plans in place improve future CJAG meeting attendance.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:48 am.

Criminal Justice Advisory Group
December 12, 2018
MINUTES

Name	Position/Agency	Email Address
Bob Bell	Resident Superior Court Judge	
Dante Bryant	CJS Research and Planning	x
Charleston Carter	Trial Court Administrator	x
Elisa Chinn-Gary	Clerk of Court	
Fonda Clifton	Child Support Enforcement	x
Rodney Collins	Sheriff's Office	x
Darius Deese	Judicial District Manager	x
Penny Dunn	Davidson Police	
Kim Eagle	City of Charlotte	
Katy Fitzgerald	CJS Research and Planning	x
Vicki Foster	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police	x
Barry Graham	Huntersville Police	x
Tamikia Greene	Health Department	x
Mike Grossman	CJS Research and Planning	x
Sonya Harper	CJS Director	x
Bence Hoyle	Cornelius Police	
Tim Ledford	Mint Hill Police	
Stacy Lowry	Community Support Services Director	
Rob Merchant	Pineville Police	
Spencer Merriweather	District Attorney	x
Regan Miller	Chief District Court Judge	x
James Owens	CJS Jail Population Coordinator	x
Clark Pennington	Matthews Police	
Derrick Ramos	Assistant County Manager/Chief of Staff	x
Khalif Rhodes	Chief Magistrate	
Cleveland Spruill	Huntersville Police	x
Kevin Tully	Public Defender	x